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the situation ; hence the display of generosity was only high comedy. This conclusion is hardly fair. Granting the premises, we may still admit that Nicholas, who had a high sense of honor, believed it to be his duty to let Constantine, as the older brother and the natural successor of Alexander, decide once more unhampered whether he really wished to give up his claims. The letters between the two, in spite of their formal phraseology, have a genuine ring to them.

In both sets of publications such of the documents as were in Russian are printed in German translations, the originals being added in an appendix.

ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE.

La Hongrie Moderne de 1849 à 1901. Étude Historique. Par A. DE BERTHA. (Paris : Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 1901. Pp. iv, 358.)

IN these ultra-national days, when writing in any language but one's own is regarded as unpatriotic, we are in danger of getting our ideas about many of the smaller countries of the world almost entirely from foreign, not to say hostile, sources. For instance, as most of us cannot be expected to study the native tongues of Poland, Bohemia, and, still more, of Hungary, for information about these lands we fall back perforce on what we can find in German, regardless of the fact that it is almost impossible for Germans to be quite impartial in their treatment of the history and, still more, of the present politics of peoples whose aspirations have so often conflicted with their own. We are always ready, therefore, to welcome a serious work by a native writer who has condescended to appeal to the Western public in a medium we can understand. Mr. de Bertha's book accordingly deserves a good reception, for it covers a period in the history of his country full of interest even to foreigners. His familiarity with his subject is obvious, his style is clear, and his appreciations in the essentials studiously moderate, though his tone is highly patriotic and his description of Hungarian public men is almost without exception laudatory, not to say fulsome. His account of the negotiations that led to the *Ausgleich* and particularly of the part played by Deák is especially good.

On the other hand, there is a great deal that he does not give us. His work does not at all justify its title, for it is a parliamentary history and little else, although encumbered with lengthy extracts from the regulation speeches at the millennial festivities. He has furnished us with a useful record of debate and legislation and, to a certain extent, of public needs and opinion. He has not described, except in rather vague allusions, the remarkable economic progress of Hungary in recent years, and he has left out all the shadows of the present picture. Brilliant as has been the success that the Hungarians have achieved in the last half-century and respectable as is their position in the world to-day, it is far from true that "tout est pour le mieux dans la meilleure des Hongries possibles."

To begin with, the *Ausgleich*, the much-lauded achievement of Deák, is working increasingly badly. The Austrians, whether German or Slav,

believe, and with considerable reason, that they got much the worst of the bargain. Good feeling between the two halves of the monarchy does not seem to be on the increase, and as the so-called compromise has to be renewed every seven years, there are frequent opportunities for disagreement ; indeed, the really immense difficulty encountered in bringing about the latest renewal bodes ill for the future. In the second place, we cannot overlook the present situation of Austria, where the antagonism of the conflicting nationalities has reached such a point as to make ordinary legislation nearly impossible, and where many people believe that with the death of Francis Joseph we shall have the beginning of the end of the Hapsburg Empire. To be sure, even without her partner, Hungary may still be able to lead an independent and prosperous if modest existence, but it must be remembered that within her own borders she has very grave questions to which Mr. de Bertha barely alludes. Of her total population, if we include Slavonia and Croatia, less than half are Magyars or Hungarians proper, even according to the official statistics, which cannot be regarded as impartial in such a matter. In spite of all our author's insistence on the spirit of liberalism as the chief characteristic of present Hungarian politics, it is notorious that the treatment of the other nationalities by the ruling one has often been the reverse of liberal. Few fair-minded Hungarians would assert that the elections have been generally free, or the hand of the police light in dealing with the subject nationalities ; and it would be absurd to pretend that the immense majority of purely Magyar members in the diet at Pesth is due to superior wealth and intelligence alone. The sternly maintained supremacy of the dominant race with its vigorous attempts to absorb the others may indeed be wise in the end. So far it has certainly preserved a peace which contrasts favorably with the spectacle on the nearer side of the Leitha, but absorption by force is a long and slow process which creates boundless ill-feeling while it is going on. There is no doubt to-day that the sentiments of the other nationalities towards the ruling Magyar minority is in many cases extremely hostile ; and what makes this the more dangerous is that each of these other peoples has its own friends outside. The Slovaks in the north look to their kinsmen, the Czechs of Bohemia ; the few Ruthenians are not without sympathy from the Russian Empire ; while the Germans in Hungary can count on much more active support from the new Pan-German movement. Transylvania with its preponderatingly Rouman population is regarded across the mountains as part of Roumania Irredenta ; and, finally, the two and a half million Croats and Servians, among whom hatred to the Magyars is perhaps bitterest, form a compact group with sufficient local privileges to defy absorption. They may dispute with each for hegemony, but they regard themselves as destined to build up a future independent south Slavic state, which would hardly fail to be the enemy of Hungary.

The determination, not to say hopeful confidence, with which the Magyars face all these perils compels our admiration. Whatever the future may have in store for them, they have played in the past a part

out of all proportion to their small numbers. We can say, too, that in no period of their history have they given more striking proof of their qualities, such as courage, patience, extraordinary sense of law, indomitable patriotism, and capabilities of many kinds, than they have by their achievements since 1849, when Görgei, who is still alive to-day, capitulated to overwhelming force at Villagos, and the independent existence of Hungary seemed to have come to an end forever.

ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE.

Egypt in the Neolithic and Archaic Periods. By E. A. Wallis Budge, M.A., Litt.D., D.Lit., keeper of the Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities in the British Museum. (New York, Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1902, pp. xxiv, 222.) This is the first volume of the *History of Egypt* in the series entitled *Books on Egypt and Chaldea*. In the first chapter, which embraces almost half the book, the author gives an interesting account of excavations and investigations made during the past ten years by Petrie, de Morgan, Amélineau, and others, and discusses the results of the labors of these scholars. He regards it as "certain that many of the most important elements of Egyptian culture were brought into Egypt by a people who were not remotely connected with the Babylonians." It would seem that this people, having crossed into Africa (probably from southern Arabia, by way of the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb), conquered and overran Egypt, and that the historical Egyptians are the descendants of the mingled conquerors and conquered.

Among the subjects discussed in this first chapter are the following: Physical Characteristics of the Predynastic Egyptians; Agriculture; Domestic Animals; the Predynastic Grave; Religion; Belief in a Future Life in the Predynastic Period. Chapter II. is devoted to an interesting discussion of Egyptian chronology. Chapter III. deals with the Legendary Period and with several predynastic kings. Chapter IV. treats of the kings of the first three dynasties. The book is well printed on excellent paper, has a map and some forty-four illustrations, and it may be warmly recommended to any one wishing to know the views of an eminent scholar in regard to the important period with which it deals.

J. R. JEWETT.

Die Religion Babyloniens und Assyriens. Von Morris Jastrow, Jr. (Giessen, J. Ricker, 1902, Erste Lieferung, pp. v, 80.) A German translation of Professor Jastrow's standard work having been called for, the author has made use of this opportunity to revise and enlarge the original edition (Boston, Ginn and Company, 1898). To judge from this first of the ten projected parts the work will be considerably expanded. Naturally, as the author observes in his preface, some portions of the whole work demand enlargement to a greater degree than others. The first main division owes its expansion in large part to the necessity for dealing more fully with the themes of Chapter I., "Sources and Methods of Study," and Chapter II., "Land and People." The former topic is